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Editorial

It is a pleasure to see the annual meeting, held jointly with the Society for Behavioural Neurology, remains the highlight in our calendar and is attracting a growing number of participants. This meeting gives us the opportunity to recognize and support outstanding achievements of our student-members, and this year again, we will have the pleasure to hand out three awards, for the best publication of 2003 (a total of 19 applications was received), for the best clinical presentation (three short-talks are being selected among the submitted abstracts) and the three best posters (to be selected during the meeting). The Committee also continues its efforts to finance travel fellowships for student-members and junior postdocs. Next year, we will be able to support the FENS meeting in Lisbon and Society for Neuroscience Meeting in San Diego. Finally, we have moved ahead with our plans to organize new activities for our membership. Details are being given in this Newsletter.

The SSN is not an isolated society. It is the fifth largest Neuroscience Society in Europe, but if we do not watch out, the Dutch Society will soon supercede us. Neuroscience is expanding throughout the continent, and at the last Council meeting of the FENS, Slovenia became the newest member of the federation. The 4th Forum of European Neuroscience in Lisbon will be a crucial test whether a large meeting corresponds to a need for European scientists. If you support this view, please plan to attend this meeting (July 10-14, 2004). Registration is opened on the FENS website.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Lausanne on January 17th and wish you all the best for the New Year. For the Committee of the SSN,

Jean-Marc Fritschy

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Swiss Society for Neuroscience
 Swiss Society for Behavioural Neurology
 Saturday 17th January 2004, CHUV, Lausanne



Program of the Annual Meeting

Auditoire César Roux, CHUV

9:30 - 10:00	Registration, Poster Set-up, Coffee and Croissants
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome Address Jean-Marc Fritschy, President of the SSN Patrik Vuilleumier, President of the SSBN
10:10 - 11:00	Lecture by Prof. Wolf Singer "Synchrony as a code of relatedness in signal processing and learning"
11:00 - 12:00	Datablitz (3 minutes presentations by 10 poster presenters)
12:00 - 15:00	Lunch and posters
14:00- 15:00	Business meeting of the SSN Business meeting of the SSBN (to confirm)
15:00 - 15:30	Interesting clinical studies (3 oral presentations)
15:30 - 15:40	Best Publication Award
15:40 - 15:50	Best Clinical Presentation Award and Volker Henn Award for 3 best posters
15:50 - 16:40	Lecture by Prof. Faraneh Vargha Khadem "From speech to gene: studies of the KE family and the FOXP2"
16:40	Aperitif

The annual meeting follows its traditional program, including several Awards in recognition of outstanding publication, clinical studies, and best posters. It will be held for the first time at the University Hospital in Lausanne, which is easily reached by car and by public transportation. We are delighted to hold this meeting jointly with the Swiss Society of Behavioural Neurology, another première in the history of the SSN. The number of abstracts submitted (> 180) shows that the meeting is attractive and should draw numerous participants. Please recall that advance registration (on-line) is welcome for organizational purposes but is not required. It is also possible to register on-site. The meeting is free of charge to all participants.

Agenda of the General Assembly

The General Assembly of the SSN (business meeting) is opened to all regular and student-members. It will take place, as usual, during the annual meeting. The following agenda will be discussed:

1. Overview of the past year
2. Finances and membership
3. Vote: Change in by-laws for new member application (see below)
4. Activities of the SSN in 2004
5. Fellowships and prizes offered by the SSN in 2004
6. 2005 Annual Meeting in Zurich
7. Brain Awareness Week 2004
8. The next Festival “Science et Cité”
9. News from the FENS and the IBRO
10. Varia

Change in by-laws

Simplification of the application procedure for new members

The current by-laws, following the rules of other professional societies, specify that applications for membership have to be sponsored by two current members of the SSN. An exception is made for “student-members”, who need only a letter of support from their supervisor.

In recent years, the growth of the SSN has been much slower than the development of Neuroscience research in Switzerland. As a consequence, many active basic and clinical researchers are not members of our society. In an effort to revert this trend, and considering that the SSN should have an open policy for membership, the Council proposes to change the by-laws (Article III, section 2) as follows:

Current version: Ordinary members. Any resident of Switzerland who is engaged in research relating to the basic or clinical neurosciences is eligible to apply for Ordinary Membership. **Applications**

supported in writing by two (2) Ordinary Members may be submitted directly to the Secretary of the Society. Application from residents of other countries will be considered if they can advance convincing arguments for joining the Society.

New version: Ordinary members. Any resident of Switzerland who is engaged in research relating to the basic or clinical neurosciences is eligible to apply for Ordinary Membership. **Applications may be submitted on-line at the Website of the Society or in writing to the Secretary of the Society. The eligibility of candidate members will be verified by the Secretary.** Application from residents of other countries will be considered if they can advance convincing arguments for joining the Society.

The proposed change will be submitted to vote at the General Assembly.

Travel fellowships

The SSN will maintain its tradition and offer fellowships for attending the FENS meeting in Lisbon (July 10-14, 2004). Ten fellowships of Fr. 800.- will be offered on a competitive basis.

The rules for applications are found on the Website. This program is reserved to student-members and postdoctoral fellows within three years of graduation. The Application includes the submitted abstract and a letter of support signed by the supervisor.

Submission deadline: February 15, 2004.

SSN Activities in 2004

As announced in the previous Newsletter, the Council has launched several initiatives for members of the SSN, which will begin in 2004. Although no definitive program is available at the moment, the following activities are planned:

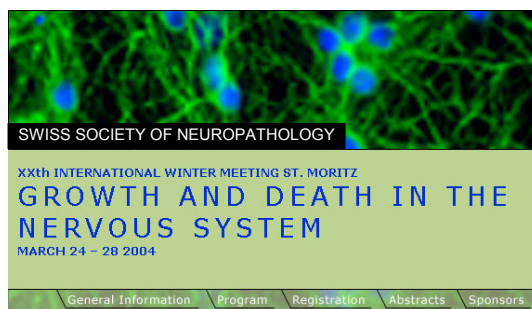
1) **“Sensory function, Plasticity and Neuroimplants”**: Thanks to the support of the organizers, the Annual Workshop of the *Bern-Fribourg Neuroscience Program (Benefri)* is opened to all student-members of the SSN. This workshop will take place on March 3-5, 2004, at the University of Fribourg. (For details, see <http://pylwww.unibe.ch/benefri>).

2) *The PhD-student day*. The first PhD-student day, opened to all student-members of the SSN, will take place at Novartis in May 2004. The definitive date and program will be announced in January. The aim of this day is to give a brief insight into the world of research in a pharmaceutical company, and to provide room for social interactions among students from various backgrounds.

3) *Workshop on “Animal Experimentation”*: As announced in the previous Newsletter, such a workshop opened to all members of the SSN who have to collect credits for continuous education in animal experimentation is being planned. If approved by the responsible authorities, the workshop is scheduled for September 2004. See the Website of the Federal Veterinary Office for general information about continuous education (www.bvet.admin.ch).

abroad wishing to send one of its junior members for one year to Switzerland, do not miss this opportunity! See the previous Newsletter for details about the submission procedure.

Announcements



Deadline for registration: December 31, 2003 (www.ssn.unizh.ch/) [any resemblance with “our” SSN would be pure coincidence!]



Deadline for registration: January 10, 2004
For program and details, see www.usgeb.ch

<http://www.fens2004.org>

SSN-IBRO fellowship

The SSN-IBRO fellowship for young investigators, supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation, is awarded yearly to a foreign postdoc to perform one year of research in Switzerland. To increase its prestige and visibility, we have asked the IBRO to become an official sponsor and to include it into its fellowship program. The IBRO responded enthusiastically, so that any future recipient of this fellowship will become an “IBRO-alumnus”.

For this year, the deadline for application (by the candidates and their host laboratory in Switzerland) is set to December 31, 2004. If you have any contacts with a laboratory



The Website is now open for early registration and abstract submission.
Deadline: 31st January 2004.